MARVEL COMICS

PETER PARKER™

SPIDER-MAN®

MARVEL PG 47 145

JENKINS
RAMOS
FAUCHER

THINK OF ME AS A LIGHTNING ROD.

I'M THE METAL POLE, THE BAD GUYS ARE THUNDER AND LIGHTNING. I GUESS YOU COULD SAY IT'S MY JOB TO DRAW THEIR *FIRE.*

YOU WANT TO TAKE A POTSHOT AT THIS CITY, YOU GOTTA GO THROUGH ME.

WHAT IT IS, SEE... IT'S A *DANCE.*

GOOD VERSUS EVIL IS A DANCE ACROSS THE SKY, WHERE NO TWO PATTERNS ARE EVER THE SAME.

IT'S A THUNDEROUS *LAMENT...* A BURSTING CLOUD OF RAGE, AIMED AT NO ONE IN PARTICULAR BUT COMING THROUGH *ME* ALL THE SAME.

IT'S TRYING LIKE MAD NOT TO FALL AS THE FOUNDATIONS SHAKE AND HALF THE SCREWS IN THE CITY COME LOOSE BENEATH ME.

THAT'S ME: STANDING TALL IN THE FACE OF THE *STORM.*

A DEATH IN THE FAMILY
PART FOUR

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PAUL JENKINS
writer
HUMBERTO RAMOS
pencils
WAYNE FAUCHER
inker
STUDIO F
colors
RICHARD STARKINGS & COMICRAFT
letters
JOHN MIESEGAES
assistant editor
AXEL ALONSO
editor
JOE QUESADA
editor in chief
BILL JEMAS
president

AA-UHH--!

=NNF!=

WHAT'S THE MATTER, GOBLIN... =AH-EHH=...

...STORM GOT YOUR LOBOTOMY SCARS FLARING UP AGAIN?

YOU ALWAYS WERE AN INSOLENT LITTLE WHELP, PARKER -- FULL OF VIM AND VINEGAR. BUT YOU NEVER QUITE HAD THE COMEDIC TIMING.

SO, LET'S SEE IF YOU CAN LEARN A THING OR TWO ABOUT PUNCHLINES FROM AN OLD PRO:

WHEN I LEAVE HERE TONIGHT, I NEED MAKE JUST ONE PHONE CALL AND MY GRANDSON WILL BE DEAD WITHIN SECONDS. FOLLOWING THAT, YOUR FAMILY AND FRIENDS AS WELL.

THERE'S YOUR COMEDY ROUTINE RIGHT BACK *ATCHA,* MISTER PARKER.

NO!

=UHHF!=

NEVER! YOU HEAR ME, YOU MANIAC? I'LL NEVER LET YOU HURT THEM... NOT WHILE I'M STILL STANDING --

GH-UHH--!

...WELL, *THAT* TOUCHED A NERVE, I SEE.

DIDN'T IT OCCUR TO YOU THAT THERE MUST BE A ***REASON*** WHY MY LACKEYS ARE SO CONSPICUOUS BY THEIR ABSENCE? THERE'S NOT ONE OF MY PEOPLE WITHIN A MILE OF THIS BUILDING.

DO YOU WANT TO KNOW ***WHY?***

AT THIS VERY MOMENT, I HAVE OPERATIVES STRATEGICALLY PLACED AROUND THE COUNTRY WITH VERY SPECIFIC ORDERS TO MURDER ALL OF THE PEOPLE YOU HOLD DEAR.

ONLY ONE OF US CAN LEAVE HERE TODAY. IF IT'S ME, YOUR DEAR OLD AUNT SLIPS ON THE STAIRS. IF IT'S BOTH OF US, THE REDHEAD TAKES AN ACID BATH. BUT IF YOU KILL ME, YOUR NEAREST AND DEAREST GET TO LIVE ANOTHER DAY.

YOU WOULDN'T ***DARE*** --

ALREADY ***HAVE,*** BUCKO.

NOOO--

OLÉ.

Y'KNOW, I'D HOPED YOU WERE ***BETTER*** THAN THIS, PARKER. ANY FOOL CAN BE BLINDED BY ANGER, BUT IT TAKES ***REAL*** TALENT TO UNDERSTAND HOW TO ***FOCUS*** IT.

I'D HOPED BY MAKING YOU ANGRY I'D GET TO SEE A MORE ***VALUABLE*** SIDE OF YOU -- ONE WORTHY OF THE GREEN GOBLIN'S LEGACY, PERHAPS.

BUT INSTEAD, I FIND YOU HAVE ALL THE POTENTIAL IN THE WORLD --

--STOP ***STRUGGLING*** --

--AND NOT THE FIRST IDEA HOW TO ***USE*** IT.

I GUESS HATRED JUST ISN'T YOUR ***STRONG*** SUIT, HMM? YOU LACK THE PATIENCE TO FOCUS IT EVEN FOR A MOMENT...

...NOT EVEN TO PROTECT THE ONES YOU LOVE.

I HEAR HIS VOICE ABOVE THE SURFACE, BUT IT SEEMS SO FAR AWAY NOW. IT'S LIKE CIRCUS MUSIC, PLAYING BACKWARDS.

HE'S RIGHT... I'VE FAILED. I ALWAYS FAIL IN THE END.

FAILED MY UNCLE BEN... FAILED ALL OF THE PEOPLE WHO RELIED ON ME.

AUNT MAY... NORMIE... FLASH...

...MARY JANE...

...GWEN...

NO!

WHAT? YOU CAN'T BE --

CAN'T BE WHAT -- STILL *ALIVE?* OR EVEN MORE DETERMINED... TO KICK YOUR GREEN, WARTY BEHIND THAN I WAS A MINUTE AGO?

=AH-HEHH=... AND THERE *I* WAS THINKING YOU WERE AN INTELLIGENT GUY.

GH-AHH!

THAT'S A PRETTY TWISTED IDEA YOU HAD THERE, NORM: TO MAKE ME ANGRY ENOUGH THAT I'D END THIS THING BETWEEN US ONCE AND FOR ALL, HUH?

WELL, TINKERBELL, MAYBE WISHES *DO* COME TRUE.

SHOOOOM

HH-UHH!

BLAAM

G-GET AWAY FROM ME! YOU'RE INSANE!

NO... GET OFF ME!

GET OFF!

OW --

HA HA! HEHH... GOTTA FLY, SPIDER-MAN -- PLACES TO GO, PEOPLE TO SEE!

THWIP

I'LL BE IN TOUCH WHEN YOUR PEOPLE ARE ALL IN COLD STORAGE. CIAO FOR NOW, BIG BOY!

HMM --?

AHH --!

EHH... UHN... OH, GOD...

...MY RIBS...

HH-UHH --!

YOU KNOW THE TROUBLE WITH YOU, PAL? YOU ALWAYS THOUGHT YOU WERE *FUNNIER* THAN I WAS.

BUT YOU NEVER WERE.

GO AHEAD, SON... *DO* IT.

YOU KNOW YOU *WANT* TO.

I WASN'T ALWAYS GOING TO BE THE GREEN GOBLIN.

WHEN I FIRST STARTED OUT, I WAS GOING TO CALL MYSELF "MISTER COFFEE."

GOD... CAN YOU IMAGINE HOW WEIRD THE LAST FEW YEARS WOULD'VE BEEN IF I'D DONE THAT?

AH-HA HAHA!

HAHA! HEE! OH MERCY!

AH-HEHH... HA! LOOK OUT, KIDS -- IT'S MISTER COFFEE AND HIS LATTÉ OF DOOM!

OH, GOD... HA HA HA... STOP IT!

HEHH... HHUHH... -SNKK-

I KEEP HAVING THIS DREAM.

WHAT *KIND* OF DREAM, PETER?

THE SAME ONE, OVER AND OVER AGAIN: I DON'T KNOW WHAT IT MEANS, AND THERE'S NO ONE I CAN CONFIDE IN.

NO ONE BUT *YOU* -- YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN POSSIBLY UNDERSTAND.

"I DREAM THAT I'M COMING ACROSS THE CITY AS SPIDER-MAN. I LOOK UP, AND I SEE A PLANE COMING DOWN OVER THE BUILDING TOPS.

"AND I KNOW -- I JUST KNOW -- THAT MY WIFE, MARY JANE, IS ON THAT PLANE.

"I HEAR THE SOUND OF MACHINERY, THE RUMBLE OF AN ENGINE...

"...AND THEN, THERE'S THE SOUND OF RUSHING WIND, AN EXPLOSION. I'M RUSHING TOWARDS IT, BUT I CAN'T GET THERE IN TIME.

"I COME ACROSS THE WRECKAGE... I'M SCREAMING, DESPERATE TO FIND HER, BUT I CAN'T...

"I THINK I SEE HER LYING ON THE GROUND UP AHEAD. I GO TOWARDS HER..."

...AND WHEN I GET THERE, I ALWAYS FIND *GWEN.*

SOMETIMES, I WONDER WHAT WOULD'VE HAPPENED IF YOU'D REALLY GOTTEN TO *KNOW* HER. IF YOU'D JUST LET HER PERSONALITY REACH OUT AND *FIX* YOU, YOU KNOW?

YOU WOULDN'T HAVE KEPT ON BEING THE WAY YOU ARE -- YOU WOULDN'T HAVE *WANTED* TO.

GOD, I LOVED HER SO MUCH. SHE WAS SO PRETTY WHEN SHE LAUGHED -- JUST PERFECT.

LIKE A STAR, OR SOMETHING. LIKE A RAINSTORM ON A HOT DAY.

THAT DAY YOU MURDERED HER ON THE BRIDGE, I THOUGHT *EVERYTHING* WAS GOING TO DIE. I THOUGHT YOU'D BEATEN ME ONCE AND FOR ALL AND CONSIDERING WHAT YOU TOOK FROM ME, I'M NOT SURE I EVEN *CARED.*

ALL I COULD THINK ABOUT WAS LOSING GWEN. SHE DIDN'T DESERVE WHAT HAPPENED... HER LESS THAN ANYONE IN THE WORLD.

NOT A DAY GOES BY I DON'T THINK ABOUT KILLING YOU FOR WHAT YOU DID, NORMAN --

-- NOT ONE SINGLE DAY WHERE I DON'T THINK ABOUT HATING YOU.

THAT'S WHAT I'M SUPPOSED TO DO: I'M SUPPOSED TO *HATE* YOU.

BUT I *DON'T.*

I LOVE MJ, I TRULY DO. AND JUST AS MUCH, I LOVED GWEN STACEY.

EVERY DAY I REFUSE TO HATE YOU, I KEEP GWEN ***ALIVE;*** IF I CAVE INTO ANGER OR HATRED, SHE DIES FOR GOOD -- AND SHE'S WORTH MORE TO ME THAN ANY OFFER YOU COULD ***DREAM*** OF.

YOU'RE MAKING A MISTAKE, BOY. IF YOU WALK OUT THAT DOOR --

NO I'M NOT. YOU WOULD NEVER HURT NORMIE AND WE BOTH ***KNOW*** IT.

SEE, I JUST WORKED OUT WHAT MY DREAM MEANS: IT MEANS YOU CAN'T ***WIN.*** IT'S YOU VERSUS GWEN, MAN -- YOU NEVER STOOD A CHANCE.

SO GO AHEAD... KILL MY AUNT MAY. I CAN'T STOP YOU IF THAT'S WHAT YOU REALLY WANT. GO AHEAD AND KILL EVERYONE I KNOW -- IT'LL ONLY STRENGTHEN MY RESOLVE.

I WON'T HAVE TO KILL YOU IN RETURN. I WON'T EVEN HAVE TO SEND YOU TO JAIL.

JUST BEING ***YOU*** -- THAT'S LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE.

...AND THERE WAS CORRIGAN, THUNDERING DOWN THE FIELD LIKE A DUTIFUL SOLDIER WHO'D READ HIS ORDERS BACK TO FRONT.

HE FELT THE WIND RUSHING BY HIS FACE... HE COULD HEAR SHOUTS OF ENCOURAGEMENT COMING FROM BEHIND: CORRIGAN! CORRIGAN!

"CORRIGAN, YOU'RE GOING THE WRONG WAY --"

LIZ.

HI. SORRY I'M LATE.

JEEZ... YOU LOOK TERRIBLE. DID YOUR AUNT MAY BEAT YOU UP AGAIN?

YEAH. I DIDN'T FINISH MY MEATLOAF.

LISTEN, LIZ... I WANT YOU TO KNOW I WOULD'VE COME HERE BEFORE NOW. I JUST *COULDN'T*, OKAY?

I DIDN'T MEAN FOR YOU TO DEAL WITH THIS ALL BY YOURSELF -- I JUST HAD SOME STUFF TO TAKE CARE OF FIRST.

PETER, YOU KNOW HE'S --

YEAH. I KNOW.

DON'T WORRY, AMIGO. EVERYTHING'S GOING TO BE *OKAY* NOW.

...YES, WELL, I'M SURE MISTER OSBORN WOULD HAVE *CALLED* IF IT WERE THAT IMPORTANT...

NO... HE'S NEVER BEEN THIS LATE ON A MONDAY MORNING...

OSBORN INDUSTRIES

HOLD ALL MY CALLS, MARTHA. I DON'T WISH TO BE DISTURBED BY ANYONE.

YES, MISTER OSBORN.

UM... SIR? YOU HAVE A DELIVERY WAITING FOR YOU IN YOUR OFFICE. I PUT IT ON YOUR DESK.

WHAT DELIVERY?

UH... IT WAS FROM A MISTER PARKER, SIR -- HE SAID YOU'D BE EXPECTING IT. HE WAS VERY INSISTENT --

SLAM

"I'M SUPPOSED TO HATE YOU. BUT I DON'T.

JIMMY JOE PIZZA

ORDER #6

"JUST BEING YOU -- THAT'S LIFE WITHOUT PAROLE.

"YOU CAN'T MAKE ME DO WHAT I DON'T *CHOOSE* TO DO."

"FIVE BUCKS AND A PIZZA SAYS I CAN!"

JIMMY JOE PIZZA

NICE TRY!

MEDIUM

The End